IN LOVING MEMORY

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES

FOR

MOTHER BENNIE RUTH DEMARTRA

Sunrise:
February 23, 1935

Sunset:
May 16, 2006

Services Held

Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.
ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
662 So. 52nd Street
Richmond, California

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor

Obituary

Bennie Ruth Williams was born in the small rural community of Pineville, Louisiana on February 23, 1935. She was the fifth and the last living heir to Robert Williams, Sr. and Priscilla Bessie Ellis Williams. The community in which Bennie was raised was a tightly-knit community comprised of residents who were all related to each other. In fact, the community was called "Kinfolks Hill" because of the family ties of its inhabitants. In 1946, when Bennie was twelve years old her father Robert Williams, Sr. died of a sudden heart attack. Bennie being the youngest was raised by her single mother who was legally blind, sisters and extended family. Her mother "Mama Cilla" was a deeply religious and strong family person whose father and father- in-law were both preachers. At an early age Bennie was instilled with the values of the love of God, family and the importance of the community. While still a child, she accepted Christ and was baptized at the Good Hope Baptist Church in Pineville, Louisiana.

Bennie attended Elementary School in Shreveport, Louisiana returning to Pineville she attended St. James Catholic School, Alexandria, Louisiana and graduated from Peabody High School in Alexandria, Louisiana. After completing high school Bennie worked in the homes of white families caring for their families and doing housework. She begin to have her blended family where she met an married in 1958 Frederick Demartra, Sr. she was the proud mother of five. She worked various other jobs as a nursing home assistant. In 1968 she packed up her children and moved to San Francisco, California, she became a devout member of Paradise Baptist Church under the pastorate of the late Reverend Dr. Raymond Howard, Sr. where she resided until 1973. Her professional career while in California included two years of College for Early Childhood Development and she worked in group homes for at risk and handicapped children. Her last employment 1994 through 2000 was with Vee's Home of TLC, Richmond, California as a facility manager. She joined St. John Missionary Baptist Church in 1994 and was an active member of the Voices of St. John until her first illness in 2000. She could no longer sing with the choir she then became a member of the Mother's Board and served there until she departed this life. Sister Bennie Ruth Demartra was a member of Star of Love Chapter #22, Order of the Eastern Star where she served as Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, Associate Conductress and Conductress. Bennie loved to fish and had many great fishing stories of "The Big Fish".

Bennie Ruth Demartra departed this life on Tuesday, May 16, 2006. She was predeceased by her parents, Robert, Sr. and Priscilla Williams, husband Frederick Demartra, Sr. brother, Robert Williams, Jr., sisters, Elouise Coleman, Rosemary Gray and Florence Johnson; and a nephew Robert Coleman, Jr. She leaves to praise the Lord and cherish her legacy sons, Kenneth Ray Lavan (Lillie), of Pineville, La, Frederick Demartra, Jr. (Felicia), Alexandria, La, daughters, Norma Jean Lavan, Oakland, CA, Judy McCormies, Richmond, CA, and Janice Rena Wilson-Nevils (Joseph), San Pablo, CA; son-in-law Bernard Stinson, Los Angeles, CA; 14 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren; two God given sisters, Mary Gastinell, San Francisco, CA, Irene Robinson, Berkeley, CA; two God given daughters, Alexis Holden, Alexandria, La. And Vi Nguyen, Vallejo, CA; three God children, Darrell Adams, Monique Trotter and Ariel Fredzess-Lucas, nieces, Carolyn Calvert, Laura Kay Bissic and Janice Marie Offord, nephews, Robert James Johnson, George Gray Jr. and Versell Coleman and a loving extended family of grand-nieces, grand-nephews, cousins and friends.

The family of Bennie Ruth Demartra is thankful for her life and her contributions to ours. She was truly a giving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother whose concerns and care for her children was a principal driving force in her life.

ORDER OF SERVICE
OF
MOTHER BENNIE RUTH DEMARTRA

Musical Prelude ..... *Sister Willa Gaye Williams*

Processional ..... *Clergy and Family*

Scripture ..... *Old Testament* Psa. 91 ..... *Minister Metrice Williams*

New Testament 1 Cor 5: 1-7 ..... *Minister Cynthia Harris*

Prayer ..... Metrice Williams ..... *Minister Melvin Williams*

Solo ..... Empezia Grace ..... *Brother Dion Williams*

Acknowledgments ..... *Sister Iola Baker*

Resolution (s) ..... *Sister Annie Johnson*

Expressions ..... *Two (2) minutes Please*

Sister Ariel Fredzess-Lucas
Sister Gerviece Money Demartra
Member of the Cottonreader Family
Brother George Gray, Jr.
Brother Darrell Adams

Special Tribute ..... Psa 116:15 ..... *Sister Janyce Elayne Wiggins*

Solo ..... *Sister Willa Gaye Williams*

Obituary ..... *Silently Read*

Solo ..... *"Yesterday"* ..... *Minister Cynthia Harris*

Words of Comfort ..... Job 14:14 ..... *Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor*

Parting View ..... *Wilson & Kratzner's Staff*

Recessional ..... *Wilson & Kratzner's Staff*

Internment

Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive
Richmond, CA 94806

Active Pallbearers

Deacon Lee Arthur Johnson
Deacon Nick Waller
Deacon Bobby Johnson
Brother Bernard Stinson
Brother Ralston Lucas, Jr.
Brother Edwin Milburn

Honorary Pallbearers

Brother Kenneth Ray Lavan
Brother Frederick Demartra, Jr.
Brother Robert James Johnson
Brother Donald Ray Lavan
Brother Freddie L. Williams
Brother Seamon Holden
Brother George Gray, Jr.
Brother Versell Coleman
Brother Nathaniel Encalade
Brother Ramon Wilson
Brother Cory Brown
Brother Malik Stinson
Brother Darrell Adams
Brother Eric Baker

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Family of Mother Bennie Ruth Demartra would like to thank all of our friends and family for their heartfelt prayers, words of encouragement and other expressions of support during this time of bereavement. It is the kindness that you have shown through your words and deeds that has strengthened our hearts.

Repass to be held
Odom Hall
2131 Nevin Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801

Final arrangements entrusted to the professional care of:

Wilson & Kratzer Mortuary

455 - 24th Street . Richmond, California . (510) 232-4383